

**Christmas Day
December 25, 2023
Heritage Lutheran Church
Apple Valley, MN
10:00 a.m.**



ELH Rite 4, Chorale Service with Communion page 107

1. Welcome

2. Opening Hymn #148 "Praise God The Lord, Ye Sons Of Men" (verses 1,2,3,8)

(Please stand for the last verse)

1 Praise God the Lord, ye sons of men,
Before His highest throne;
Today He opens heav'n again
And gives us His own Son,
And gives us His own Son.

2 He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.

3 He veils in flesh His pow'r divine
A servant's form to take;
In want and lowliness must pine
Who heav'n and earth did make,
Who heav'n and earth did make.

8 For us He opens wide the door
Of Paradise today;
The angel guards the gate no more,
To God our thanks we pay,
To God our thanks we pay.

3. Invocation

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

4. The Confession of Sin

Pastor Let us confess our sins:

Congregation Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned against Your divine majesty by thought, word, and deed, provoking Your wrath against us. We earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for our sins. We grieve to think of them. Their burden is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, gracious Father! Forgive us our sins for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that we may serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pastor Lift up your hearts. The Lord God, according to His promise, is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. By the command of Christ and the authority of my holy office I forgive your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

5. The Kyrie - Hymn #34 "Kyrie, God Father in Heaven Above"

Kyrie, God Father in heav'n above, Great art Thou in grace and love
Of all things the Maker and Preserver. Eleison, eleison!
Kyrie, O Christ, our King, Salvation for sinners Thou didst bring.
O Lord Jesus, God's own Son, Our Mediator at the heav'nly throne,
Hear our cry and grant our supplication. Eleison, eleison!
Kyrie, O God the Holy Ghost, Guard our faith, the gift we need the most;
Do Thou our last hour bless; Let us leave this sinful world with gladness.
Eleison, eleison!

6. The Gloria - Hymn #35 "All Glory Be to God on High" verse 1

All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended.
God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again;
O thank Him for His goodness!

7. The Collect for the Day

Pastor Let us pray. Grant, we beseech You, almighty God, that the new birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free who are held in the old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

8. Old Testament Lesson *Isaiah 52:7-10*

7 How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" 8 Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. 9 Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. 10 The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

9. Psalm 2 (*read responsively by whole verse*)

- ¹ Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
- ² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,
- ³ "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."
- ⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.
- ⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,
- ⁶ "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."
- ⁷ I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.
- ⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.
- ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.

¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

¹² Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

10. The Epistle *Hebrews* 1:1-9

1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. 4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. 5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? 6 And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." 7 In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire." 8 But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

11. Chief Hymn #113 "A Great And Mighty Wonder"

1 A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure:
The Virgin bears the Infant
With virgin honor pure!
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"

2 The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky.
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"

3 While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,
Ye oceans, clap your hands.
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"

4 Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored,
The Infant born in Beth'lem,
The Savior and the Lord.
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men"

5 And idol forms shall perish,
And error shall decay,
And Christ shall wield His scepter,
Our Lord and God for aye.
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"

12. The Gospel Lesson *John 1:1-14*

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. 6 There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

13. Creed Hymn # 37 "We All Believe In One True God"

1 We all believe in one true God,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Ever-present Help in need,
Praised by all the heav'nly host,
By whose mighty pow'r alone
All is made and wrought and done.

2 We all believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Mary's Son,
Who descended from His throne
And for us salvation won,
By whose cross and death are we
Rescued from all misery.

3 We all confess the Holy Ghost,
Who from both fore'er proceeds,
Who upholds and comforts us
In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blest and Holy Trinity,
Praise forever be to Thee!

14. The Sermon "God Speaks Loud And Clear" *Hebrews 1:1-9*

15. The Offering Collection

16. The Prayers

The Service of the Holy Communion

Heritage Lutheran Church practices Close Communion. We ask that only members of the ELS and WELS partake of the Lord's Supper today. Visitors, please speak with Pastor Anderson about receiving the Sacrament in the future.

17. The Lord's Prayer *sung by all. Tune: ELH p. 53*

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

18. The Words of Institution

Pastor Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

19. The Distribution and Reception of The Lord's Supper

21. Hymn of Thanksgiving #142 "Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn"

Rejoice, rejoice, this happy morn! A Savior unto us is born,
The Christ, the Lord of glory. His lowly birth in Bethlehem
The angels from on high proclaim And sing redemption's story.
My soul, Extol God's great favor; Bless Him ever For salvation.
Give Him praise and adoration!

22. Collect of Thanksgiving

Pastor Let us give thanks and pray: Almighty God and Father, we thank You for feeding us with the most precious body and blood of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of Your Son, and heirs of Your eternal kingdom. Send us out to do the work You have given us to do, to love and serve You as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

Congregation Amen.

23. The Benediction

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Congregation Amen.

23. Benediction Hymn – #138 "Joy To The World"

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Communion Prayers

Before

We do not presume to come to Your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under Your table. But You are the Lord who desires always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the Body of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink His Blood, that we may evermore dwell in Him and He in us. Amen.

After

Lord Jesus Christ, even as You rose triumphant from the grave, I beseech You to grant me grace to rise from the bondage of sin, to walk in the newness of life, that when You appear as my Judge and Redeemer, I shall greet You in peace and joy, and may throughout eternity enjoy the bliss of Your unveiled Presence. Amen

The Exhortation

Pastor: Dear friends in Christ! In order that you may receive this holy Sacrament worthily, it is good that you consider what you must now believe and do. From the words of Christ; "This is My body, which is given for you; this is My blood which is shed for you for the remission of sins" you should believe that Jesus Christ is Himself present with His body and blood, as the words declare.

From Christ's words "for the remission of sins" you should believe that Jesus Christ bestows upon you His body and blood to confirm unto you the forgiveness of all your sins.

And finally, you should do as Christ commands you when He says "Take, eat; drink of it all of you," and "this do in remembrance of Me."

If you believe these words of Christ, and do as He therein has commanded, then you have rightly examined yourselves and may worthily eat Christ's body and drink His blood for the forgiveness of all your sins.

You should also unite in giving thanks to Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for so great a gift, and should love one another with a pure heart, and thus with the whole Christian Church have comfort and joy in Christ our Lord. To this end may God the Father grant you His grace; through the same, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Announcements

New Year's Eve Day Worship – New Year's Eve Worship with Communion at 10:00 a.m.

2024 Offering Envelopes – Please pick up your 2024 offering envelopes from the table in the narthex.

Heritage School Call Extended - At the call meeting this last Sunday, the voters of Heritage extended a Divine Call to Miss Nicole Roper to teach in our new K-2 classroom. She is currently serving as preschool director and teacher at Cross of Christ in Coon Rapids. Please pray for her as she deliberates her new call to Heritage as well as her current call at Cross of Christ. May the Lord guide her to what is best for his Kingdom.

Women's Bible Study – The Women's Monday evening Bible Class will reconvene in January. Contact Ruth B. to make arrangements to join.

Men's Bible Study – Men's Bible study will reconvene in January.

Fellowship - Volunteers are always needed to provide fellowship food every Sunday. Please sign up on the volunteer board.